

QUITE NATURALLY, THE PROLIFERATION OF TRADE COMPLAINTS IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS HAS CAUSED GRAVE CONCERN IN CANADA. THE CASES COMPLICATE INVESTMENT DECISIONS BECAUSE TO BE SUCCESSFUL, CANADIAN PRODUCERS NEED SECURITY OF ACCESS TO FOREIGN MARKETS, AND IF THE RULES' INTERPRETATIONS KEEP CHANGING, THAT SECURITY IS JEOPARDIZED AND DIMINISHED.

AS IMPORTANT AS THE PROLIFERATION OF TRADE COMPLAINTS, IS A DISTURBING RELUCTANCE IN THE U.S. TO ACCEPT THE VERDICT WHEN U.S. INTERESTS DON'T WIN A CASE.

WE HAVE SEEN THAT IN GRAPHIC TERMS IN SOFTWOOD LUMBER. WE WON THE CASE IN 1983. WE THEN FACED A NUMBER OF LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES SEEKING IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER TO LIMIT OUR EXPORTS TO THE U.S. WE THEN FACED A FACT-FINDING INVESTIGATION, THEN YET ANOTHER COUNTERVAIL THIS YEAR AND THE THREAT THAT IF THE U.S. INDUSTRY DOES NOT GET WHAT IT WANTS, THE LIKELIHOOD OF MORE CONGRESSIONAL ACTION.

THIS, MR. SPEAKER, IS WHY WE SEEK NEW RULES. WE SEEK A BETTER SHIELD AGAINST THE FORCES OF PROTECTIONISM. THE EXISTING RULES MAY BE LAW BUT THEIR ENFORCEMENT DOES NOT ALWAYS LEAD TO JUSTICE. WE WANT MORE CERTAINTY, A MORE CONFIDENT ENVIRONMENT FOR INVESTORS AND PRODUCERS IN CANADA. THIS IN TURN WILL GENERATE JOBS AND ECONOMIC GROWTH!

WHAT ABOUT ENHANCED ACCESS? ONE EXAMPLE IS OUR PRODUCERS' ABILITY TO SELL THEIR GOODS TO U.S. STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS. FOR EXAMPLE, BUY AMERICA REQUIREMENTS PROHIBIT THE USE OF FOREIGN STEEL IN PROJECTS FUNDED UNDER CERTAIN LAWS. THIS CLOSES AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE U.S. MARKET TO OUR PRODUCERS.

WE WANT BETTER ACCESS TO THESE MARKETS SO THAT OUR WORLD-CLASS TECHNOLOGY IN AREAS SUCH AS TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND ELECTRICAL GENERATING EQUIPMENT CAN COMPETE ON AN EQUAL FOOTING WITH U.S. PRODUCERS.